

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Currently Amended) A stay ~~according to claim 3~~, comprising:
 - a first arm,
 - a second arm whose basal end part is turnably connected to a leading end part of said
 - first arm between a development position and a folded position, and
 - a lock means disposed between said first arm and said second arm, said lock means being
 - switched between a locked state where said second arm can non-turnably be
 - locked in said development position and a released state where said second arm is
 - allowed to turn from said development position toward said folded position, and
 - a retaining means for retaining said lock means in said released state when said second
 - arm is located in said development position,
 - wherein said lock means comprises:
 - a lock member movably disposed at said second arm within a predetermined
 - movable range, and
 - a lock biasing means for biasing said lock member,
 - wherein when said lock member is moved to a predetermined locked position
 - within said movable range with said second arm located in said
 - development position, said lock member is engaged with said first arm to
 - prohibit said second arm from turning from said development position
 - toward said folded position,
 - wherein when said lock member is moved away from said locked position by a
 - predetermined releasing distance or more with said second arm located in
 - said development position, said lock member is disengaged from said first

arm to allow said second arm to turn from said development position toward said folded position, and

wherein said lock biasing means biases said lock member toward said locked position so that the engaging state of said lock member with said first arm can be maintained,

wherein said retaining means comprises a movement prohibiting means disposed between selected one of said first and second arms, and said lock member and is adapted to prohibit said lock member from moving toward said locked position beyond a predetermined release retaining position which is away by more than said releasing distance from said locked position, and

wherein said movement prohibiting means is disposed between said first arm and said lock member, said movement prohibiting means ~~includes comprising:~~

- a displacement member disposed at said lock member such that said displacement member can displace between a first position and a second position,
- a displacement biasing means for biasing said displacement member from said first position toward said second position,
- a first abutment part disposed at said first arm, said first abutment part being abutted with said displacement member so that said displacement member is brought into said first position when said second arm is located at said development position and said lock member is located at said locked position and allowing said displacement member to move to said second position when said lock member is moved beyond said release retaining position,
- a second abutment part disposed at said lock member and abutted with said displacement member so that said displacement member is brought into said second position against the biasing force of said displacement biasing means, and
- a third abutment part disposed at said first arm and abutted with said displacement member which is located at said second position, thereby preventing said lock member from moving from said release retaining position toward said locked position.

5. (Currently Amended) A stay according to claim 4, wherein said first arm is provided with an engagement recess formed therein and partly open, and said ~~first arm~~ lock member is provided with an engagement part formed thereon, said engagement part being brought into engagement with said engagement recess through an opening part of said engagement recess thereby prohibiting said second arm from turning toward said folded position from said development position when said second arm is located at said development position and said lock member is moved from said release retaining position to said locked position.
6. (Previously Presented) A stay according to claim 5, wherein said first abutment part is formed as an inclination surface which is inclined in such a manner as to approach the opening part of said engagement recess from said locked position toward said release retaining position, and said third abutment part is formed as a leading end part of said inclination surface which is intersected with an end part on the opening side of one side surface of said engagement recess.
7. (Previously Presented) A stay according to claim 6, wherein said displacement member is turnably disposed at said lock member, said engagement part is also used as said second abutment part, said displacement member is abutted with a rear end part, which is away from said engagement recess, of said inclination surface, thereby causing said displacement member to be located at said first position when said second arm is located at said development position and said lock member is located at said locked position, said displacement member is slid on said inclination surface and turned toward said second position as said lock member is moved from said lock position toward said released position, and said displacement member is moved beyond said inclination surface and abutted with said engagement part thereby being located at said second position when said lock member reaches said release retaining position.
8. (Previously Presented) A stay according to claim 7, wherein when said second arm is turned from said folded position toward said development position with said lock member located in a moving limit position toward said first arm within said predetermined movable range, said engagement part is brought into abutment with said inclination surface, thereby said lock member is moved toward said release retaining position in accordance with turning movement of said second arm against the biasing force of said lock biasing means, and when

said second arm reaches said development position, said lock member is moved to said locked position by said lock biasing means, thereby said engagement part is inserted into said engagement recess through said opening part of said engagement recess.

9. (Previously Presented) A stay according to claim 8, wherein when said lock member is moved to said locked position by said lock biasing means, said displacement member is moved by said inclination surface from said second position to said first position against the biasing force of said displacement biasing means.